

APPENDIX M

Information on a few Historical Buildings in Trigg County

One Room School House, circa 1916*

The Trigg County Historical and Preservation Society was proud and pleased to have had an opportunity to restore this one room school building, known as Southern Academy, to its status of 1916. Restoration took place between 1991-1992.



Built in 1916, this building replaced the old school building that was constructed in 1867. It was in operation as a school until 1951 when schools were consolidated in this county and move to the county seat of Cadiz. After that, it was used as a farm building and a church. The owner – a former student of this school – needed to make room for a modern hog operation. This meant that the school needed to be moved or destroyed. He gave the building to the county, hoping someone would preserve it. The county gave the building to the historical society in 1991 as a restoration project. With the public's help through donations and time, we have nearly restored the building as it was in 1916.



The building was of a new and modern design – note the many windows that give more light than usual, this means the room has no artificial light. The community activities such as ice cream socials and box suppers were held outside at night by the light of lanterns. This one room school housed eight grades, at the most it had between 50 and 60 desks with the school term from July thru December. It was taught by one teacher and a glance at the blackboard will show you her busy schedule!

The recitation bench in front of the teacher's desk is where she conducted her classes, the pupils sat on the bench to recite their lessons to her. This bench is the original bench. We have restored the bookcase, the teacher's desk, the water bucket & dipper and the table that it sets on. Note the well has been restored located out front to the side of the building. The pot belly stove has been replaced and notice the stage where the children stood to say their Christmas Pieces or participate in the Spelling Bees. We have oiled the floor in the manner it was in the days when many a barefoot was blackened from walking across it.

The cloak rooms are on the right and left of the door as you enter the building, one is for the boys and the other for the girls. The coats, overshoes, and lunches were stored there. At the sides of the back of the building were outhouses – again one for boys and one for girls.

****Information provided by the Trigg County Historical Society.***

Article in the Cadiz Record June 18th, 1936 on the Cadiz Masonic Lodge.

HAND HEWN LOGS IN CADIZ BUILDING

Workmen Repairing Masonics' Building Here Find
Hand-Made Nails and Hand-Hewn Timbers

BUILDING ERECTED IN 1854

When it became necessary to make some repairs to the Masonic Hall in Cadiz the workmen made some very interesting discoveries about the construction of the old building. The upper floor is used by the lodge and the lower floor by the Cadiz Record.



When a new floor was put on a part of the lodge hall it was found that joists used in construction of the building were 2 ¼ inches by 14 inches of white oak and were sawed out by hand. The floor was nailed to the joists with the old fashioned square, hand-made nails.

The sills were used in the construction of the building, the one on the lower floor being 19 inches by 14 inches and is forty-eight feet long. This sill is cut from one tree. The one used in the upper part of the building is twelve feet longer but is spliced and was put together by wooden pegs.

From information received from A. C. Burnett, local historian this building was erected in 1854 by the Masonic Lodge of Cadiz and the Cadiz Christian Church, and was used by the congregation of the Cadiz Christian Church for forty years. When the new church was erected the congregation left the old building.

During the War Between the States this building was confiscated by Col Sam Jones Federal officer, while the Federal troops occupied Cadiz and was used as a hospital and headquarters. Much damage was done to the building at that time by the troops and later members of the congregation sought to have the Federal Government make the necessary repairs to the building. Their claim however was turned down by the Government on the grounds that Cadiz was a hostile territory, the majority of the inhabitants being in sympathy with the Southern cause.

After the church was abandoned by the congregation in favor of a more modern building in 1894 one Sam Hoodenpyle, an actor, remodeled the building and used it for an opera house for several years. Plays were presented here and several lectures were given. Among the prominent lecturers to deliver addresses in this building were Col. Bob Taylor of Tennessee whose lecture "The Fiddle and the Bow" is famous; Gen. John B. Gordon of Civil War fame and Henry Waterson, then editor of the Louisville Courier Journal.

Article provided by the Trigg County Historical Society

TOWN OF MONTGOMERY

Home of two of the oldest
residential structures in Trigg County

Like so many Americans before and after his time, John W. Gaines (1821-1884) was an entrepreneur. He had an idea, a vision of what could be, and he was not afraid to take a risk. In modern terms Gaines was a real estate developer. He bought raw land and converted it into residential and commercial property and hoped to earn a profit from his investment of time and money.

The property that Gaines “developed” in 1866 would become the town of Montgomery, located in the northeast part of Trigg County, Kentucky. Named in honor of an early settler, Thomas Montgomery, who was living in the community as early as 1816, Montgomery was described by the noted historian, William H. Perrin in his 1884 History of Christian and Trigg Counties as a “beautiful little village”.

Gaines first built a general merchandise store which he operated successfully for eighteen years. Shortly after establishing his mercantile business, he laid the town out into lots and built several homes, shops and other structures in anticipation of attracting people to the new town. Today we would likely refer to these properties as model homes or “spec” buildings. Such structures are commonly built by both residential and commercial developers in the hope that they will entice people to buy a home or establish a business in the building.

Montgomery would become a thriving town with a post office (1853-1916), general store, woodworking shop, blacksmith shop, boarding school, inn, and several churches. Through the years a number of doctors called Montgomery home and established lucrative medical practices in the town. Prior to the construction of the Cadiz Railroad and improvements to the county’s roads, Montgomery was a regular stopping point for stage-coach traffic on the Hopkinsville and Eddyville Road, parts of which are now KY 276.

Although it was not the first town established in Trigg County, it is one of the few that has stood the test of time. Additionally, Montgomery is home to two of the oldest residential structures in the county. The Federal-style farmhouse of Smith and Katie Broadbent was built about 1830 by Dr. Thomas Woodridge, and it would become home to General John W. Gaines in 1872. The John McCaughan home located 2.2 miles north of Montgomery on KY 276 is known locally as the “Rock House” and is thought to be the oldest remaining residential structure in the county. The Rock House was built about 1814, also in the Federal-style. Instead of using wood to construct his home, McCaughan utilized dry-stone masonry, typical of Scotch-Irish construction in Central Kentucky, but so rare in Western Kentucky that it is the only known example of this type of construction in the region.

Today, with only two structures from its earlier days, and no longer an incorporated town, Montgomery still remains a vital part of the Trigg County economy.

TRIGG COUNTY DOCTOR EXECUTED AFTER CIVIL WAR AS GRAY MARTYR

By J. Percy Priest

Synopsis

Henry Wirz was born on November 25, 1823, in Zurich, Switzerland. During the Civil War he was commander of the infamous military prison at Andersonville, where many Union prisoners of war died as a result of poor conditions. After Union forces liberated the prison in 1865, Wirz was put on trial and found guilty of conspiracy and cruelty. On November 10, 1865, he was hanged in Washington, D.C.

Cadiz, KY Dec 16 – When a peace monument is dedicated in Andersonville, GA near the location of the prison where captured Federal prisoners were held during the last two years of the Civil War, a Cadiz man will be present to deliver orally a part of the vindication he wrote and which resulted in a movement to memorialize Dr. Henry Wirz.

The only tall pine tree in Cadiz whines in the wind that whistles between loose pieces of weather boarding on the two-story frame house in which Dr. Wirz resided during the time he practiced medicine here before the war. And the Trigg County historian who will go to Andersonville by invitation of the United Daughters of the Confederacy is Arthur C. Burnett.



Notwithstanding that his name was heard around the globe in the late fall of 1865, and that feeling engendered by his fate became so acute that it was credited indirectly with resulting in amnesty for Jefferson Davis and other members of the Confederate government, the name of Dr. Wirz stirs only rather vague memories in most people.

Tried by court martial on a charge of murder which grew out of alleged cruelty and mistreatment to captured Union soldiers, the physician, who held the rank of captain in the Confederate army, was executed by hanging on Nov. 10 1865, after a trial which attracted international attention.

At the time of his execution, Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, and other high ranking offers of that government, were held pending trial for treason and on other related charges. None of them were ever executed. Dr. Wirz, who came here from Switzerland, was the only officer of the Confederacy who paid with his life after trials growing out of the conduct of the wars.

MARRIED KENTUCKIAN

Wirz married a Trigg County woman soon after coming here from Switzerland and they lived in several different locations in and near Cadiz spending the longest time at the weather-worn house two blocks from the Courthouse. In 1858, they moved to Louisiana and when the war broke out the young physician enlisted as a private in the famous regiment known as the Louisiana Tigers in which he served until wounded. Taken from the battlefield by two comrades, the physician never fully recovered from his wounds.

Wirz had attracted the attention of Jefferson Davis because of his ability as an administrator, and when the Confederacy opened the prison camp at Andersonville the physician was placed in charge there as warden. With supplies of food, clothing, medicine and other necessities reduced even for the Confederate armies and the civilian population in many sections of the south, a similar situation developed to some extent at the prison camp. During the time it was the main point for internment of captured troops, the prison at Andersonville received 49,485 prisoners of which number 13,000 died from many causes.

CONDITION BAD

Conditions of sanitation, water and food supply and facilities for the proper treatment of diseases were far from favorable and as new prisoners were brought in from battlefields where the Blue and the Gray had fought, they became worse.

When the war was over the Swiss physician became the symbol in the North for vengeance and around him a fierce controversy resulting in bitterness in attack and defense developed. While the court martial was in progress, Wirz kept a daily diary, and it was from the original copy of this document, supplemented with research and verification of facts, that Burnett wrote the defense which attracted the attention of leaders of the UDC in Georgia and resulted in the movement to memorialize the man who has come to be looked upon as a martyr and who died as the victim of circumstances over which he had no control.

It is extremely doubtful in the light of subsequent facts concerning the situation at Andersonville, if any other person could have done any better job than Captain Wirz, according to Burnett who sees some of the attacks made upon him as utterly without justification and as the product of deep hatreds and aroused passions.

UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY HAS DIARY

The original diary kept by Wirz is in the possession of the U.D.C chapters in Columbus GA where it was sent by Burnett upon request. Before her death, Mrs. Wirz sold in 1871 a tract of land in Trigg County known as "the Fort" and the deed, with her mark, is recorded in court records here. The Fort was a supply base in the line of fortifications built by the British and including Vincennes, IN. When George Rogers Clark captured Vincennes, the line was broken but the same old fort here was used later by proponents of the so-called Aaron Burr conspiracy.

The widow of Captain Wirz continued to live here until her death and is buried in an unmarked grave near Cadiz. Several of her relatives reside in the county at present.

The monument at Andersonville will be unveiled next Spring, will be dedicated to the cause of everlasting peace between the North and the South. It will memorialize a gray-garbed officer who was dropped from a gallows because 13,000 blue clothed soldiers died while in his keeping. The same Southern winds that will ripple flags unfurled for the ceremony will sing a sad requiem in the long-needed pin by the gate where the family doctor hitched his horse.

MORE ON THE SUBJECT:

Below was taken from the website armchairgeneral.com forum to the question:
 “Henry Wirz: Unlucky Fall Guy or Death Camp Warden?”

*... Andersonville did not have the highest death rate among Southern or even Northern prisons. Indeed the death rates in Union prisons exceeded that of southern prisons. It may very well have had the highest total deaths which says a lot given its short existence. It was not established until 1864. However, even with the very biased nature of the trial **the defense was able to establish that the rations issued to the troops and the death rate of guards and prisoners were essentially the same.** The benefit the guards had was the ability to supplement their rations from other sources.*

And to amplify a section from General Staff's link:

The South even proposed sending home all sick and wounded Union soldiers without an equivalent exchange of Confederates. Incredibly, this remarkable gesture went unanswered for five months during which conditions at Andersonville worsened. Diseases could not be adequately treated because an order of the Federal government made medicines a "contraband of war." The Confederate administration offered to buy medicines from the United States payable in gold, cotton or tobacco. The South even stipulated that Federal doctors could dispense all medicines so purchased solely to Union soldiers in the prison camp. But still there was no response to this offer and the blockade of medicines remained in effect.



Home of Dr. Wirz located two blocks from the Trigg County Courthouse in Cadiz Kentucky.



Notice the similarity between the two buildings? Might the Blue Heron on Main Street have once been the home of Dr. Wirz?

HISTORY OF STEAMBOATS IN TRIGG COUNTY

Information provided by Ricky-Dale Calhoun

The Julien Gracey ceased to be listed among U.S. registered shipping in 1890. There is not mention of the boat in Clarksville newspapers after that, nor is there anything about what happened to the boat. My guess is that it was taken out of service and scrapped, although it is possible that the boat was sold to someone who changed her name. It is very unlikely that the Gracey would have become an excursion boat. She was too small and too lacking in amenities.

I have never been able to find out the name of the boat (if any) that replaced the Gracey as the "delivery truck" service on the lower Cumberland. I am presuming it was a boat that belonged to the L&N Railroad, but have never been able to pin it down.

The Jo Horton Fall survived as an excursion boat into the 1900s (probably into the 1920s), when it too disappears from the registry. The few pictures of the Jo Horton Fall show a boat larger and fancier than the Gracey, but still far smaller and plainer than the famous Delta Queen.

There were at least two big "party barge" boats that occasionally visited Canton, the Cotton Blossom and the Idlewilde. The Cotton Blossom was not really a steamboat, but rather a large barge on which a hotel / theatre / dance hall type structure was built. It was pushed by a sternwheeler tugboat like the ones used to push cargo barges. The Cotton Blossom disappears from the documents in the 1920s.

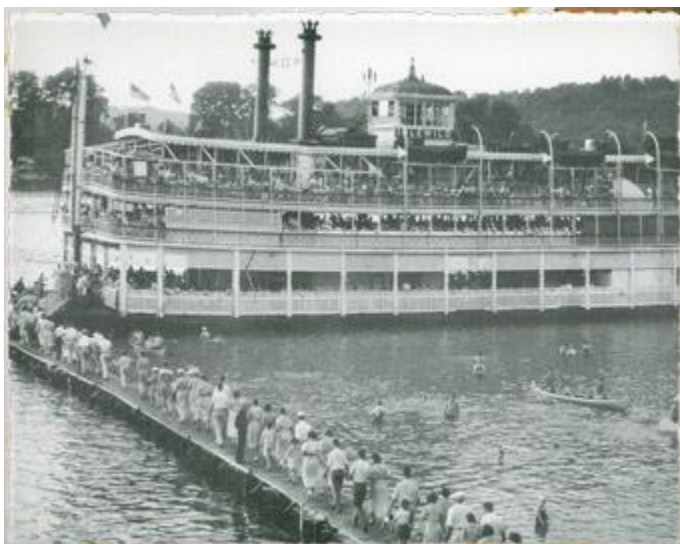
Idlewild was a true steamboat built in 1914. She ran passenger service and "party boat" excursions on the lower Cumberland River. The boat was built very late in the steamboat era. After the era was over in fact. Information is conflicting, but evidently the boat was built as a "party boat" from the beginning. A 1914 photo shows her dance floor, which appears to have taken up one whole deck level. The boat evidently made several stops at Canton early in her career. At that time she was based in Memphis and ran mostly on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Canton may have been her turnaround point on early excursions up the Cumberland River. The boat was too big (157 feet long, 36 feet wide) and too deep draft (5 feet) to get over Line Island Shoal above Linton except at high water before the locks and dams were built on the river. Her name was changed numerous times over the year. In 1980 she became the Belle of Louisville. See the following page for an overview of the life of Idlewilde from 1914 to 2014 where it celebrated its centennial birthday as the Belle of Louisville.

A little footnote: Dr. Calhoun's maternal grandparents, Robert Lee Anderson and Gladys Mae Dunn, met at a dance aboard the Idlewilde at Canton shortly before World War 1.

Below is information and photos taken from the Belle of Louisville website noted below. This would be excellent information for inclusion in the Trigg County Historical & Transportation Museum <http://www.belleoflouisville.org/timeline.html>

1914

The *Idlewild* was launched on October 18th at Pittsburgh, PA. She served as a ferry between Memphis, Tennessee and West Memphis, Arkansas and moved freight as a day packet.



1931

The *Idlewild* spent a season in Louisville running trips to Rose Island and Fontaine Ferry amusement parks.

1934

After years of traveling U.S. waterways from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and Montana to Pennsylvania, the Belle returned to Louisville & stayed through World War II.





1940's

Idlewild offered moonlight cruises during the Big Band era and occasionally served as a USO nightspot on the Mississippi River to help the war effort.

1948

Idlewild Master Ben Winters' death-bed wish was granted by renaming the boat *Avalon*.



1949

The *Avalon* was sold to a group of Cincinnati investors. Over the next 13 years, she became the most widely-traveled river steamboat in American history.

1962

The *Avalon* was put up for auction at Cincinnati. She was purchased by Jefferson County Judge Executive Marlow Cook for \$34,000 and renamed the *Belle of Louisville*.



1963

Countless hours were spent rebuilding and repairing the *Belle*. On April 30th, she began her new life by racing against the *Delta Queen* in the first Great Steamboat Race.

1988

The *Belle* was highlighted as the nation's oldest and most authentic river steamboat at the first celebration of the steamboat era, Tall Stacks in Cincinnati, Ohio.





2014

The *Belle of Louisville* celebrated her 100th birthday with a 5-day gathering of her peers on Louisville's Waterfront, October 15-19, 2014. Y'all come!

The following are a few research publications written by Ricky Dale Calhoun specifically on Trigg County that may be helpful resources when compiling information on the history of Trigg County.

- KENTUCKY STRONG – Trigg County's Tobacco Market
- WE'RE REALLY TUCKASEEANS – Trigg County's Peculiar Affinity for Tennessee
- STEAMBOATS & STAGECOACHES – Transportation in Trigg County 1820-1860
- THE STEAMBOAT JULIEN GRACEY – Saucy as a Sweet Girl Graduate in New Dress
- FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE M/V DELTA MARINER – Trigg County's Long History of Shipwrecks
- OREGON OR BUST! – David F. Byles and the "Kentucky Train" to Oregon Territory, 1853
- J. MARRIS BINNS – Native of Scotland; Resident of Trigg County; Man of the World
- COMMONPLACE PEOPLE; EXTRAORDINARY TIMES – The Early Settlers of Trigg County
- A CARNIVAL OF BLOOD – The "Lynching" of Abithal Colston and Mollie Smith – June 28, 1895
- TRIGG COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR – The Forgotten Victors – Trigg County's Union Soldiers (Second of a 2 part series)
- TRIGG COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR - Forrest and the Yankee Gunboat – What Really Happened at Canton (First of a 2 part series)
- HARBINGER OF EVIL – The Strange Celestial Event of 1859
- THE MOST HORRIBLE HOLOCAUST THAT HAS EVER OCCURRED IN THIS COUNTY – The Caledonia Tornado, March 27, 1890
- CADIZ BURNING! – The many fiery destructions of Cadiz

A HISTORY OF LAKE BARKLEY STATE RESORT PARK

The park’s original land area on the east shore of Lake Barkley officially became part of the Kentucky State Park System on December 1st, 1964. The Secretary of the Army approved, by an Act of Congress, a lease of approximately 1,800 acres of lakeshore land to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The purpose of the lease was for a period of 50 years beginning December and extending to November 30, 2014. To expand the land area for other development and an 18-hole golf course, the Commonwealth of Kentucky acquired additional holdings from private landowners. These additions amounted to approximately 1,400 acres and brought the park’s total acreage to about 3,200.



Breathtaking views from nearly every room

Soon after the land acquisition, the development began. Areas to be devolved were cleared, a temporary road network was established, landscape that was to be submerged by the coming waters of Lake Barkley was sculpted and graded, and a marina was placed in operation. During this time, an application for full-scale development was presented to the Economic Development Administration.



In the spring of 1966, the project for Lake Barkley Resort State Park was approved and a grant for \$3,987,000 was made to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Parks. The grant only covered 50% of the total project that was presented for consideration. The park opened on December 1st, 1967, with its luxurious lodge being dedicated on June 1st 1970.



A view into the Dining Room with its massive beams

The lodge is celebrated as being the largest single story wood structure in the United States built since 1950. Constructed of Western Cedar, Douglas Fir, and three and one half acres of glass, the Barkley Lodge complex provides a lake view from the private balconies of most of the 120 rooms and four suites.



“Windows on the Waters” Restaurant overlooks Lake Barkley. (photo from WKDZ)

The park’s land area now covers 3,600 acres and with completion of all its facilities, it is the most elaborate in the Kentucky State Park System.

The park is located in Trigg County, Kentucky. The county was created in 1820 and named in honor of Stephen Trigg. Trigg first came to “the District of Kentucky” from Virginia in the fall of 1779. Trigg gained notoriety for anti-Indian activities. He was fatally wounded in the Battle of Blue Licks in 1782.

The Little River flows out of Christian County and across portions of Trigg County to its confluence with the Cumberland River near the park. The impounding of the portion of Cumberland River has afforded Kentucky the beautiful and majestic Lake Barkley. U.S. Congress, in honor of the late Senator and Vice President Alben Barkley, named the reservoir Barkley Reservoir.



The project called for the construction of a multi-purpose earth and concrete dam, navigation lock, and a hydro-power generating plant. The project was of key importance to a plan for development of the water resources of the Cumberland River and its tributaries in Kentucky and Tennessee. The plan also provided flood control to the Ohio River Basin. From the dam near Grand Rivers, Kentucky, this man-made lake extends southward across Livingston, Lyon, Caldwell, and Trigg counties to the Tennessee State line and beyond.

An interconnecting canal is located along a narrow ridge that once separated the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. The canal now connects Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake and provides access for boats between the two bodies of water. At normal pool, Lake Barkley features approximately 58,000 surface acres of water for recreational purposes.

